

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3455

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR UN SF WA

SUBJ: MIXED REACTION TO SYG REPORT ON NAMIBIA

1. WHAT LITTLE PRESS REACTION THERE HAS BEEN TO SYG WALDHEIM' S REPORT ON NAMIBIA HAS BEEN MIXED. MORE COMMENT LIKELY AFTER SUBJECT IS DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT, WHEN FONMIN MULLER' S HEALTH PERMITS HIM TO RESUME DEBATE. ARGUS, A CAPE TOWN ENGLISH- LANGUAGE PAPER, HAS SAID SOUTH AFRICA' S " LATEST OUTLINE OF HER POSITION ON THE TERRITORY WILL BE SEEN IN THIS COUNTRY AND CERTAINLY AMONG MOST WHITES IN THE TERRITORY ITSELF AS HAVING MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS TO WORLD OPINION SINCE DECEMBER." ARGUS ADDED THAT SOUTH AFRICA' S UNDERTAKING " FULLY TO RESPECT THE WISHES OF THE WHOLE POPULATION OF THE TERRITORY WITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE TERRITORY," AND SAG' S REFERENCES TO " POPULATION" OF SWA RATHER THAN " PEOPLES" OF TERRITORY " SHOULD BE ENCOURAGING, TO SAY THE LEAST, TO MEMBERS OF THE UN SINCERE IN THEIR WISH FOR A PEACEFUL

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SETTLEMENT." THE NEWSPAPER WENT ON TO SAY IT WAS A PITY THAT WALDHEIM UNABLE " TO PRESS FOR CONTINUING THE NEGOTIATIONS." UN " EXTREMISTS" WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED, BUT " VIEWS OF THE EXTREMISTS ARE THE ONES THE NEGOTIATORS ON BOTH SIDES SHOULD DISCOUNT."

2. PRETORIA'S AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER, OGGENDBLAD, SOUNDED CAUTIONARY NOTE IN AN EDITORIAL WHICH EMPHASIZED THE TWO DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO SELF- DETERMINATION. SOUTH AFRICA WISHED TO RECOGNIZE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PEOPLES WHILE UN PUSHING TO OVERRIDE THESE DIFFERENCES. THIS WAS BASIS OF INABILITY OF UN AND SAG TO SEE EYE- TO- EYE ON MEANING OF SELF- DETERMINATION. MAY 2 EDITION OF ENGLISH- LANGUAGE PRETORIA NEWS HAD BANNER HEADLINE, " INDEPENDENCE FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA IN 10 YEARS."

3. MOST SIGNIFICANT PRESS COMMENT WAS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE IN MAY 3 DIE BURGER, VOICE OF CAPE NATIONAL PARTY. UNNAMED POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT QUOTED " AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" AS SAYING SAG HAD MADE " NO CONCESSIONS" ON SWA. ANY INTERPRETATION THAT IT HAD WOULD BE " TOTALLY WRONG." ACCORDING TO WRITER, WALDHEIM REPORT DEALT ONLY WITH CLARIFICATIONS OF POINTS PREVIOUSLY UNDER DISCUSSION. THESE CLARIFICATIONS WERE MERELY " ACCESSORIES TO PREVIOUS DISCUSSION AND WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY BREAK NEW GROUND." SAG POSITION BASED ON ARTICLE 1 (2) OF UN CHARTER WHICH CALLS FOR " EQUAL RIGHTS AND SELF- DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES." SOUTH AFRICA THEREFORE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATION UNDER CHARTER. KEY WORD AS FAR AS SAG WAS CONCERNED WAS " WOELKJDS". IN SAG'S VIEW, ARTICLE CONTINUED, EACH OF THE PEOPLES OF SWA SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO SELF- DETERMINATION. ACCORDING TO WRITER, THIS POINT OUGHT TO BE VERY CLEAR AND NO ONE SHOULD SAY THAT SAG HAD ATTEMPTED TO GIVE A " DOUBLE MEANING" TO THE WORD SELF- DETERMINATION. HE CONCLUDED BY REITERATING THAT NO CONCESSIONS WERE MADE BY SAG TO UN VIEWPOINT.

4. COMMENT: DIE BURGER ARTICLE AND COMMENT BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ARE CLEAR EVIDENCE SAG COVERING ITS FLANKS FROM CRITICISM FROM THE RIGHT IN SA AND NAMIBIA. IT COULD ALSO MEAN THAT, DESPITE WORDING OF SAG RESPONSE TO SYG, ISSUE WHETHER SELF- DETERMINATION IS TO BE FOR ONE PEOPLE OR FOR VARIOUS PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA IS ONE WHICH HAS YET TO BE SETTLED. WE ARE SEEKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HURD

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